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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, MAY 24, 2021

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, You place melodies in our hearts. Thank You for the music of Your mercies, for the harmonies of Your sacred words, and for the symphonies of Your unfailing love. May Your songs that surround us in the spacious skies and rolling hills inspire our lawmakers with reverence and faith.

Give our Senators such awe for Your goodness that they will strive to obey You. Provide them also with a faith that stands firm and embraces Your plan.

Lord, save us all by Your power and liberate us with Your might.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this week, the National Guard is departing what has been a months-long presence here at the Capitol. Aspects of the Guards' presence here were not fleshed out as clearly or coherently as either Congress or the servicemembers deserved, and Members of Congress will continue to discuss and debate whether it is appropriate for uniformed military personnel to play an ongoing role in policing the U.S. Capitol going forward.

But where Senators are absolutely, 100 percent united is in our great admiration and appreciation of the individual men and women who volunteered to serve in the National Guard, who have put on the uniform, and whose orders brought them here to the Capitol Complex.

It was my particular honor to get to meet and talk with several groups of the remarkable men and women of the Kentucky National Guard during this period.

Thank you, all, from all 50 States, for your patriotism and for your service.

NOMINATION OF KRISTEN M. CLARKE

Mr. MCCONNELL. On a completely different matter, when President Biden's nominees have been qualified and mainstream, they received bipartisan cooperation. But the President's choice to head a key Division at the Department of Justice as an Assistant Attorney General failed to even advance out of the committee.

The Democratic leader had to reach into the Judiciary Committee and rescue the nomination of Kristen Clarke. Our colleagues on the committee did not give her a favorable recommendation. That is because of a long history of statements that placed the nominee on, frankly, the far-left fringe of the political spectrum.

If our Democratic colleagues have their way, a couple of days from now, the American people will have an Assistant Attorney General who argued publicly just last year that "we must invest less in police." She used that exact phrase three times in one essay.

Violent crimes shot up dramatically in 2020. One survey of 30-plus major American cities found that the murder rate jumped 30 percent last year alone. Other estimates have found even larger increases. Experts say 2020 saw the largest 1-year rise in homicides that America has ever seen as far back as we have recorded these kinds of statistics.

Early data from this year suggests that 2021 may even be worse, but, apparently, the President's response to this violent crimewave is to have a proponent of defunding the police help run the Department of Justice.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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